

VZCZCXYZ0000  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBU #1330 341222Z  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 072221Z DEC 09  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0155  
INFO MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0003

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 001330

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [UNGA](#) [PHUM](#) [AR](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: Argentina: Reconsidering UNGA Resolution on Defamation of Religion

REF: STATE 122641

¶1. Per Reftel, poloff raised with the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) the annual Defamation of Religions resolution likely to come to a vote the week of December 7 in the UN General Assembly plenary. Silvia Cao of the MFA's Human Rights office understood the USG position that only people can be defamed, not religions, and agreed that such a resolution would hamper freedom of speech. She also recognized that many Latin American countries have altered their position on the issue recently. Cao agreed to raise the issue to a higher level in the Foreign Ministry and will advise post if the Foreign Ministry agrees to shift from the Government of Argentina's customary abstention on the issue.  
MARTINEZ